

Capture that moment in time



February 2007

## February meeting

by Judy Archer

Our first meeting for the year on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February was lively with a crammed-full meeting room, some newcomer/visitors and a scramble to pay our dues (Hint, hint for those that haven't yet! – Ed).

In spite of the heat and humidity and a tragic smash on the road that delayed some members, it was a busy, friendly meeting.

Even with the new, lower limit on the number of entries allowed, between us we produced an abundance of photographs for the popular subject, 'Landscapes, Seascapes and Cityscapes'.

Our guest judge was a real character, John Ibbotson, whose passion in life is photographing lighthouses.

We admired his books of hundreds of photos of lighthouses from all around the Australian coast. After supper John described the extreme adventures he has endured to capture the vast collection of images.

He was a tough judge with strong, subjective tastes, bluntly dismissive of many of our precious offerings while personally drawn to others. A popular vote might have reversed some outcomes, and did, when the office-bearers overturned John's opinion that no small print deserved first prize and moved all the awards up one. However John redeemed himself with his humour so that there was much good-natured badinage throughout the evening. We were thrilled to welcome our newcomers and also to see Hazel back with us again after her serious illness.

## Online Odyssey and exhibitions

by Dave Blair

Being a bit of a mountain bike fan, I saw the work of a fantastic photographer, Stirling Lorence, from British Columbia, Canada. I saw his stills on the 'extras' section of a mountain bike DVD. The DVD was full of pretty extreme bikers throwing themselves off some pretty amazing things, so it's not too surprising I guess that his images have some 'wow' factor to them, but beyond this, his technical excellence and eye for an angle is great. He also uses flash really well.

His website is very professional, though those with dial up, be warned it has Flash slide shows which may take a little while to download. Still, the quality of his site and the images on it are absolutely first rate and if you are into a bit of action photography, you could do a lot worse. His site is;

[www.eyeroam.com](http://www.eyeroam.com)

**HE SAID IT:** *'Nothing but a brown ditch, leech-ridden and unattractive to the majority of people'*. Tasmanian Liberal Premier, **Robin Gray** regarding the Franklin River, 1982.

There are photos everywhere when you have a digicamera in your hand. Leo recently turned five and we went to Scienceworks in Spotswood. After racing Kathy Freeman over 20m, driving the remote controlled space rover on mars and throwing out a shoulder racing in the interactive wheelchair race we retired to the kids play area. It was in there that we found even more to do, including looking at lots of different mirrors.

As a kid, I remember first learning that light rays didn't reach us instantaneously, but rather travelled really fast from the object we are looking at to our eyes – there is a split second gap between what we see and what has actually just happened.



Everyone has experienced the delay in sound – the lightning flash and counting seconds until the thunder clap, but there is even a tiny gap from when the lightning happened to when we saw it... a *really* small gap. After learning this, I remember sitting in front of a mirror, looking sideways and then turning my head *really fast* to see if I could see the side of my head before my reflection caught up and spun round... never quite managed it. Must have been sitting too close to the mirror I guess. But mirrors have held a bit of fascination ever since.

Mirrors, or for that matter any general reflections off shiny surfaces – chrome car bumpers (not that any are chrome anymore!), windows, water or even sunglasses can provide good opportunities for a bit of experimentation and some interesting effects.



Mirrors can often be used to good effect to show what is around in the broader landscape, particularly what is behind you as the photographer, or can even be used to good effect to include yourself in the image – a little cameo! Of course if you don't want



to be in the photo then you may need to be extra careful not to be (bit like trying to get your shadow out of the shot when the sun is right behind).

Another useful feature of mirrored surfaces, particularly convex ones is you can use the mirror as a really wide angle lens when you don't have one on your camera. At other times the non-uniform surface of many mirrored surfaces can simply provide a distorted view of our normal world providing anything from a quick laugh to a deeper *reflection* of the world around us.

## Comfortable place on the couch

by Dave Blair

*“Comfortable place on the couch, natures a stranger keep it out, haul away...  
...Ignorance is bliss, haven't you heard, haul away...”*

Midnight Oil – *Redneck Wonderland*

As many of you will know, I missed the Feb meeting as I was rafting on the Franklin River in Tassie. It's an amazing place, quite varied from open slow flowing deep pools to rapids like 'Thunder Rush', 'The Churn' and 'The Cauldron' in the Great Ravine. The river has certainly an interesting and controversial history, from the Aboriginal occupation to the series of dams that were planned on the river during the early 1980's that was one of first national scale conservation battles in Australia.

It is also a place that produced one of the most famous photographs in Australia's history – certainly the most famous wilderness image – Peter Dombrovski's 'Rock Island Bend', an image that gave the river a face, a name and an accessibility that people that had never been there before (and few had) could appreciate.

The island itself kind of creeps up on you, just past a major rapid and round a sharp bend and there it is, standing like the prow of a ship. The area was originally known as the Pig Trough, as it was the place where Lady Jane Franklin, after being carried in on a chair, allowed the convicts to bath. It has a spectacular waterfall just nearby (where the convict washing occurred I believe) and the camp where Dombrovski's stayed, waiting for the perfect weather for his stunning image that would ultimately save the river.

I'm sure in the past I have mentioned the power of images and how there are seminal shots that can grab the attention of people that may not otherwise have formed an opinion one way or the other, and Rock Island Bend was certainly one of those. It is hard to say what roll the image played in saving the river and changing the course of history, but I believe it was

pretty central to the cause. Some trips are special because the scenery is spectacular, some areas are important for their historical significance and some because the passion and commitment of people before you have allowed them to remain. The Franklin was all of these, thanks to those who cared.



Rock Island Bend. Water of the river was a little low, so it wasn't actually an island, but still a beautiful spot which stirred some pretty strong emotions in me. Photo by fellow rafter, Phil Keton

Here is the re-run of this popular topic. Unfortunately none of the winning entries were copied so you don't get to see them here... if winners either want to bring their winning images along next month or email me a copy, I am happy to pop them in next month's newsletter.

Thanks to our guest judge, John Ibbotson for judging...

...and the winners were:

Large Colour Print

Small Colour Print

Black and White

Slides

**Winner: Judy Archer**

Second: Phillipa Chester

Third: Derek Jones

Merit: Sally D. & Bill M.

**Winner: Wendy Potter**

Second: Phillipa Chester

Third: Hazel Murphy

Merit: Linda Lyons

**Winner: Neil Follett**

Second: Neil Follett

Third: Neil Follett

**Winner: Cindy DeLuca**

Second: Cindy DeLuca

Third: Cindy DeLuca

Merit: Neil Follett

## Cindy's Territory

Hello to all and welcome to another exciting year with the Yarra Ranges Photographic Society.

Please note a change of date for the **Enoch's point weekend trip**, which will now be from, **Friday 20th April to 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

This trip will be a low cost camping weekend away, with the opportunity to book a room in the lodge for those who don't like tenting. However there are limited rooms so be quick and book your room. Please ring Bill & Jeanie on 97285749, also to let them know how many are coming.

More details available on this trip next at March Club meeting.

## Ballarat National Competition

The Ballarat Begonia Festival & National Exhibition

At the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery- 4<sup>th</sup> March -8<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

For anyone wishing to view the exhibition the Ballarat Begonia festival will make for a great day out! Richard Hunt entered this competition, but did not get an acceptance. Well done for trying!

Committee and editor...

but for how much longer...

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